



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

7 GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN GREEN BAY DURING ICE-LED MULTI-AGENCY CRACKDOWN

GREEN BAY, Wis.— Seven members and associates of the Sureños 13 and Brown Pride Loco 13 street gangs were arrested here yesterday on administrative immigration violations in a coordinated multi-agency enforcement operation led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Tuesday's early-morning operation was organized by ICE as part of "Operation Community Shield," an ongoing national ICE anti-gang initiative designed to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute street gang members and their organizations. Other agencies participating in the Green Bay operation included: the Green Bay Police Department, the Brown County Metro Enforcement Group, the Green Bay offices of the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The majority of the men targeted in this operation had criminal histories, including prior convictions for weapons and narcotics. All those arrested are foreign nationals from Mexico and are being held in ICE custody pending deportation.

"We're sending a message to the violent street gang members in America that stopping gang violence and crime is high on our list of ICE priorities," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Milwaukee. "Law enforcement partnerships are effective in keeping criminals off the streets. These partnerships help break the cycle of the gang-related violence threatening the safety of our communities. This week's arrests are a testament to the great working relationship between ICE, and the state and local government in Wisconsin."

ICE launched Operation Community Shield in February to confront the national problem of violent street gangs. The goals of the initiative are to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent street gangs by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE.

Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative immigration authorities) against foreign-born gang members. ICE is also employing its broad customs authorities to combat drug trafficking and other crimes committed by these gangs.

The MS-13 street gang was the initial target of Operation Community Shield. MS-13 is the largest and most violent street gang in the country. In May, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities. Since the launch of Operation Community Shield, there have been more than 1,500 street gang members arrested nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.